IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 7, 15, and 21 as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for ~~a management application~~ accessing a database of interest, the method comprising:

said a management application creating a first object for indicating a unique identifier identifying a data item, said creating said first object using a first SET command;

an agent receiving said unique identifier from said management application and storing said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database which is distinct from the database of interest and to which access is unavailable with the management application;

said management application creating a second object for indicating a data type for said data item, said creating said second object using a second SET command;

said agent receiving said data type from said management application and storing said data type in said restricted intermediate database;

said management application creating a third object for indicating an action to be performed on said data item with respect to the database of interest, said creating said third object using a third SET command;

said agent receiving said action from said management application and issuing an action command to the database of interest to perform said action on said data item, wherein said agent uses said stored unique identifier, said stored data type, and said action in issuing said action command; and

said agent receiving a response to said action command from ~~the database of interest; and said agent~~ the database of interest and sending said response to said management application.

2.   (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein
        said response indicating success is said data item.

3.   (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein

Amendment and Response
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said response indicating failure is an error message.

4.   (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein

said action is a returning to said management application of said data item from the

database of interest, and

said action command is a GET command.

5.   (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein

said action is a storing of said data item in the database of interest;

said action command is a fourth SET command; and

further comprising:

said management application creating a fourth object for indicating an actual value of

said data item to be stored in the database of interest.

6.   (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein

the database of interest is a restricted database.

7.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for accessing a database of interest, the apparatus

comprising:

a first network device providing a management application;

a second network device operatively coupled to said first network device; and

an agent software program programmed configured to monitor said second network

device;

wherein said management application of said first network device is configured to:

programmed to create a first object for indicating a unique identifier for a data item

using a first SET command,

programmed to create a second object for indicating a data type for said data item

using a second SET command,

programmed to create a third object, using a third SET command, for indicating an

action to be performed on said data item with respect to the database of interest, and

programmed to receive a response to an action command to perform said action; and

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wherein said agent is further configured to:

~~programmed to~~ receive said unique identifier from said first network device and store said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database which is distinct from the database of interest and to which access is unavailable with the management application,

~~programmed to~~ receive said data type from said first network device and store said data type in said restricted intermediate database,

~~programmed to~~ receive said action from said first network device and issue said action command to the database of interest to perform said action on said data item using said stored unique identifier, said stored data type, and said action, and

~~programmed to~~ receive said response from the database of interest, and ~~programmed to~~ send said response to said first network device.

8. (Original) The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein

said action is a returning to said first network device of said data item from the database of interest,

said action command is a GET command, and

said response is said data item.

9. (Original) The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein

said action is a storing of said data item in the database of interest,

said action command is a fourth SET command, and

said first network device is further programmed to create a fourth object for indicating an actual value of said data item to be stored in the database of interest.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein

said second network device is a monitored device.

12. (Original) The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein

said response indicating success is said data item.

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13.   (Original) The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein
said response indicating failure is an error message.

14.   (Original) The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein
the database of interest is a restricted database.

15.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for accessing a database of interest, the apparatus comprising:

a network management station;

a device operatively coupled to said network management station; and

an agent ~~software program~~ programmed to monitor said device;

wherein said network management station is programmed to:

~~programmed to~~ create a first object for indicating a unique identifier identifying a data item using a first SET command,

~~programmed to~~ create a second object for indicating a data type for said data item using a second SET command,

~~programmed to~~ create a third object, using a third SET command, for indicating an action to be performed on said data item with respect to the database of interest, and

~~programmed to~~ receive a response to said action; and

wherein said agent is further programmed to:

~~programmed to~~ receive said unique identifier from said network management station and store said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database which is distinct from the database of interest and to which access is unavailable by the management application,

~~programmed to~~ receive said data type from said network management station and store said data type in said restricted intermediate database,

~~programmed to~~ receive said action from said network management station and issue said action command to the database of interest to perform said action on said data item using said stored unique identifier, said stored data type, and said action, and

~~programmed to~~ receive a response to said action command from the database of interest, and ~~programmed to~~ send said response to said network management station.

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16.   (Original) The apparatus recited in claim 15, wherein

said action is a returning to said network management station of said data item from the database of interest,

said action command is a GET command, and

said response is said data item.

17.   (Original) The apparatus recited in claim 15, wherein

said action is a storing of said data item in the database of interest, and

said action command is a fourth SET command, and

said network management station is further programmed to create a fourth object for indicating an actual value of said data item to be stored in the database of interest.

18-20. (Cancelled)

21.   (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions for performing a method of ~~a management application~~ accessing a database of interest, the method comprising:

~~said~~ a management application creating a first object for indicating a unique identifier identifying a data item, said creating said first object using a first SET command;

an agent receiving said unique identifier from said management application and storing said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database which is distinct from the database of interest and to which access is unavailable by the management application;

said management application creating a second object for indicating a data type for said data item, said creating said second object using a second SET command;

said agent receiving said data type from said management application and storing said data type in said restricted intermediate database;

said management application creating a third object for indicating an action to be performed on said data item with respect to the database of interest, said creating said third object using a third SET command;

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said agent receiving said action from said management application and issuing an action command to the database of interest to perform said action on said data item, wherein said agent uses said stored unique identifier, said stored data type, and said action in issuing said action command; and

said agent receiving a response to said action command from ~~the database of interest; and said agent~~ the database of interest and sending said response to said management application.

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